

UP, UP AND AWAY
SKY LIFE AT
FIREFLY THEATRE
AND CIRCUS {page 18}



HATS ARE BACK
WIDE-BRIMMED
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STYLE {page 21}



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U of A still unoccupied

► Police, University of Alberta officials block Occupy demonstrators from campus citing 'responsibility to student safety and health' ► Tense moments, but no arrests as protesters and officers face off on Saskatchewan Drive



► Police hold back a group of Occupy Edmonton protesters and students on Saskatchewan Drive in front of the U of A Wednesday afternoon.

SHELLEY WILLIAMSON/METRO



SHELLEY
WILLIAMSON
@METRONWS.CA

Student and Occupy Edmonton protesters' attempts to occupy the University of Alberta were met with a firm refusal by officials and a pronounced police presence Wednesday.

The Edmonton contingent of Occupy Wall Street posted earlier on its Facebook page intentions to protest at the U of A quad.

The group, which grew to about 100 at its peak, was blocked by EPS and peace officers at Saskatchewan Drive.

Occupy spokesperson Katie Nelson said the protest was over high tuition and staff cuts.

"We are sending a message to the University of Alberta that we, too, have a voice, that we, too, have a say in what happens to our education," Nelson said.

An EPS and U of A protective services representative warned non-students would be arrested if they stepped on campus.

Protesters sat on the road several minutes before being

Protest and next steps

► After the demonstration, which started at Ezio Faraone Park at noon and wound down Saskatchewan Drive to Whyte Avenue at the dinner hour, the group planned to reconvene at Gazebo Park.

► No arrests were made during the two-and-a-half hour protest. Peace officers began to write a ticket for one protester who stepped onto campus land, but let him return to the group instead.

encouraged to retreat.

University Provost Carl Amreim posted a statement, citing "responsibility to student safety and health."

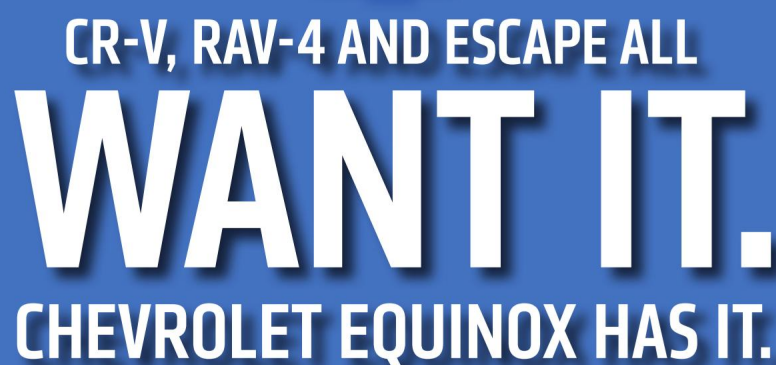
"It was made clear to Occupy organizers why the university cannot permit such an occupation and that any attempts to do so will result in their removal from the university property," the statement read.



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Tories want to overhaul budget process

The Alberta government plans to open the legislature's spring sitting next week with a bill that would fundamentally restructure how the province's budgets are put together.

Treasury Board president Doug Horner says zero-based budgeting would focus on results and would ensure that programs and services were vigorously reassessed every year.

"It's not about cutting. It's not about laying hordes of people off. It's about delivering services better," Horner said in the legislature rotunda Wednesday.

Under traditional budgeting practices, politicians and officials subtract from or add money to existing line items to achieve desired outcomes.

Horner said what the government would like to

do is determine goals for each year, then build budgets to meet them.

Existing programs and services would essentially start from zero at the start of every budget year and would have to prove they were worthwhile and delivered value toward a broader goal.

He said focusing on results doesn't mean losing focus on the bottom line.

"Certainly we're going to be frugal in what we do and certainly we're going to make sure we spend within our limits."

The changes would be rolled out incrementally. A third of the departmental budgets would be reviewed this year with an eye to switching them to zero-based budgeting in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Doug Horner

1

news

'Our message is these drugs kill'

- Q&A session with doctor to let parents, youth learn about dangers of ecstasy, other drugs
- Police in Edmonton, Calgary are administering their own school awareness initiatives



SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Youth and parents can quiz an Alberta Health Services expert on the dangers of ecstasy via Twitter this Friday.

AHS announced the prevention campaign Wednesday in the wake of a string of deaths from a strain of ecstasy in Alberta and B.C. containing the toxic compound PMMA.

"Our message is these drugs kill," said Dr. Mark Yarema, a poison and drug expert. "PMMA is far more toxic than MDMA, which is referred to as ecstasy. We know that it has a higher incidence of seizures and irregular heartbeats and hypothermia."

PMMA, also known as "Dr. Death," is linked to eight Alberta deaths, and five in B.C.

Though Edmonton police say they've not seen the



► AHS and police in Calgary and Edmonton are targeting youth with awareness campaigns, following more than a dozen deaths in Alberta and B.C. in six months from tainted ecstasy.

deadly drug yet, two city women were taken to a Calgary hospital Sunday after

taking what they thought was ecstasy.

Calgary police have start-

ed a poster campaign at schools in their city.

Edmonton police plan to

Details

- Police suspect the drug source could be B.C.'s Lower Mainland, but the pills can be made just about anywhere. Often the seller isn't aware of what he or she is selling.
- Most Alberta deaths have been in the Calgary area, but one announced this week from December involved a 38-year-old man from Red Deer.
- In Calgary, officers are urging that ecstasy tablets be turned in to police, who briefly considered amnesty for those who did, but realized they lacked legal jurisdiction to do so.

target youth with their own awareness campaign but are still working out the details, said Lorraine Cramer of EPS public affairs.

WITH FILES FROM
THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Smart-e-Pants aim to prevent bedsores

▶ Electronic shorts stimulate muscles in people with spinal cord injuries

Gem Hebert is not shy about bearing her backside for medical science.

The 61-year-old woman is one of about two dozen Alberta patients confined to a bed or wheelchair who are helping test a new technology called Smart-e-Pants.

The custom electric underwear stimulate gluteus muscles to help prevent pressure ulcers or bedsores.

A tumour in her back left Hebert unable to walk and forced her into a wheelchair last year. She then allowed medical staff to put her into an early, bulky version of the under-

"I've got the most photographed bum in Edmonton."

GEM HEBERT SAID WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING A NEWS CONFERENCE UNVEILING THE UNDERWEAR AT THE GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

wear for several weeks.

An electrical current lasting 10 seconds zapped her buttocks every 10 minutes.

Hebert said the zaps didn't hurt and the underwear was comfortable, although she has some design suggestions on how the garment could better allow women to go to the bathroom. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Taxi. Stand



▶ Airport Taxi Service drivers protest downtown near city hall Wednesday.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

Protesting new licences

City council officially approved 100 new taxi licences Wednesday as part of a new agreement with the EIA for a city broker to serve the airport, an effort to stop deadheading. Airport drivers say with 250 drivers and only 100 licences to apply for, many will be out of jobs.

Condo blaze victims allowed back home

Some residents displaced by a devastating blaze on Jan. 19 in Heatheridge Estates were allowed to return to their apartments for the first time Wednesday. Remaining residents in the 32 units left standing will be allowed back in eight units at a time in the next couple of weeks.

Edmonton Fire Rescue crews battled the fire, which started on the main floor and destroyed two-thirds of the building, for



15 hours.

The cause of the \$10-million fire that left 92 people homeless has not been released. **● METRO**

Childhood home of McLuhan preserved

City council gave the Edmonton Arts Council \$75,000 Wednesday to complete the purchase of

1912 The family moved into the house in 1912 when McLuhan was one-year-old.

the Highlands area childhood home of media philosopher Marshall McLuhan for library and public displays, as well as writing offices. **● METRO**

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what is in philosophy bottles and jars inspires better skin,
what is on those bottles and jars inspires better days.

believe in miracles

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no hype, no gimmicks. philosophy takes their lead from industry-leading scientists and formulates with proven science for visible results. they were the first to bring an in-home version of a peel to traditional retail environments.

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authentic

with text as the primary graphic treatment, philosophy gives you a daily greeting, making the personal care product in your bathroom take on greater meaning with clever names that make you smile or inspire reflection.



philosophy was born on the first day of spring in 1996 to usher in a new age of beauty by marrying cutting-edge science with multitasking products. with the belief that only when you feel good can you truly look your best, philosophy set out to create some of the finest, most well-respected, innovative skin care, fragrance and body care available today.

philosophy: believe in miracles

founder cristina carlino is a cosmetic industry visionary, with over 30 years experience in clinical skin care and beauty. the first company cristina founded was biomedic, a medically-based skin care line distributed to the world's leading plastic surgeons and dermatologists. in 1996, she created philosophy so women everywhere could personally access leading skin care technologies.



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WASCALLY WABBITS

Canmore bunnies escape stewpot

The town of Canmore, overrun by as many as 2,000 rabbits, says it began to catch them two weeks ago.

The town struck a

deal in December with Earth Animal Rescue Society to provide a sanctuary for the rapidly multiplying bunnies. Group founder Susan Vickery says 35 rabbits are at a temporary shelter where they will be sterilized.

She says she has enough money at this point to save 175 of the rabbits and the town has held up its end of the bargain so far.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rapist gets 14 years

Norman Washington Walters, 24, was sentenced to 14 years in prison on Wednesday for sexual attacks on three escorts in 2009. However, the U.S. citizen will serve half the time because of poor conditions at the Edmonton Remand Centre where he was in custody since August 2009. ● METRO

Woman charged for biting cop

A woman faces an assault charge after an EPS officer was bitten so hard he had to have hospital treatment. Police were responding to a Mental Health Act complaint and said the woman, in her 20s, may have been under the influence of a substance. ● METRO

Warm winter is good news for city roadwork crews



► Bob Dunford, in charge of roadway maintenance, speaks at a snow-removal press conference earlier this winter.

- City workers are out in force thanks to mild temperatures
- Most forecasters called it wrong



HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONWS.CA

This winter's balmy weather is offering more than relief for Edmontonians, who have only had to deal with a few days of frigid temperatures.

Roadwork has continued and the city has even got a bit of a head start on potholes.

Crews have also been able to pick up litter, since it hasn't been buried under as much snow as usual.

"If the last of the snow would melt, we could start our spring cleanup," said Bob Dunford, the

city's director of roadway maintenance. "But there's a high probability it's not."

Last spring was the second-worst of the past decade for potholes, with an estimated 450,000 needing to be fixed. Dunford said it's unlikely to be as bad this year.

And while snow-removal equipment hasn't been in use much, it's ready to go, as Dunford recalls a winter similar to this a half-dozen years ago.

"Again, it was very dry in January and February, then I think March was like 48 centimetres of snow."

Oops

► Environment Canada, the Weather Network and AccuWeather all predicted Western Canada could see

its coldest winter in two decades this year.

► It's the second- or third-warmest winter on record for some Prairie provinces.

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Senator takes back controversial words

► Tory Boisvenu apologizes for earlier comments on offering suicidal hanging to worst offenders

A Conservative senator backed away from an unconventional proposal Wednesday for reducing prison costs: Give serial murderers a rope and let them decide whether to hang themselves.

"Basically, every killer should (have) the right to his own rope in his cell. They can decide whether to live," Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu said, referring to people who "had no hope of rehabilitation."

A few hours later, after an outcry from the opposition and a flurry of media interest, Boisvenu issued a statement saying the comment was inappropriate and that he withdrew it.



► Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu

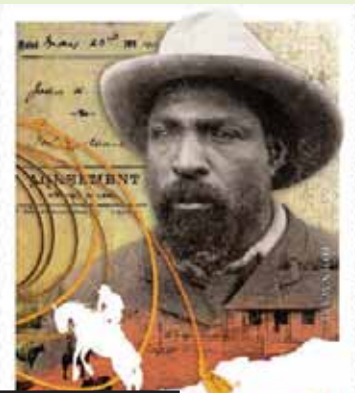
The comment about hanging came on the same day an awareness campaign was launched on youth mental health, in memory of young Ottawa suicide victim Daron Richardson. There have

also been a number of recent, high-profile prison suicides in Quebec.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper distanced himself from the remarks, but said he understood Boisvenu's feelings. Boisvenu became a victims'-rights advocate after his daughter was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2002. Harper appointed him to the Senate two years ago.

"We all understand that Sen. Boisvenu and his family have suffered horribly in the past and, obviously, I think we understand his emotions in that regard," Harper said during the House of Commons question period. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Black. History



► Two new Canada Post stamps were issued Wednesday to honour two great black Canadians: Viola Desmond and John Ware.

CANADA POST HANDOUT

Postal tributes to Canadian icons

Stamps commemorate Viola Desmond who sat in the whites-only section of a Nova Scotia theatre. She was forcibly removed, arrested and fined. John Ware was a former U.S. slave who became a pioneer of the ranching industry in Alberta.

Canadian prisoner in Mexico charged

Cynthia Vanier, who is accused of masterminding a

plot to bring Moammar Gadhafi's son to Mexico, has been formally charged, Mexican officials confirm.

Three others have also been charged, while an ar-

rest warrant is out for a fifth suspect.

Vanier, a mediator based in Mount Forest, Ont., has been moved to a prison in Chetumal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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F-F-F-Frosty. Europe

► An elderly couple braves the bitter cold as they walk alongside the Moscow River on Wednesday. Temperatures in the area fell to -21 C.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe battles cold spell

Rescue helicopters evacuated dozens of people from snow-blocked villages in Serbia and Bosnia, and airlifted in emergency food and medicine as a severe cold spell kept Eastern Europe in its icy grip.

Oil from Concordia cruise ship spreads through Italy's waters

► Activists fear leaking fuel will harm marine life ► Officials identify 17th body

A thin film of oil spread from the Costa Concordia cruise ship as waves battered the wreckage off Italy's coast Wednesday, adding to fears of an environmental disaster in the area's sensitive, pristine waters. Authorities were trying to assess how serious and extensive the spread was, but said that so far it didn't appear alarming.

Italian authorities also identified a German woman, Siglinde Stumpf, as being among those killed in the Jan. 13 capsizing of the vessel. Stumpf is the 17th person whose body has been identified. Fifteen others are listed as missing.

The search for the miss-

ing has been hampered by rough seas, with emergency officials ending the search in the submerged part of the ship due to the danger to rescue workers.

A large crack also appeared Wednesday between two glass panels that formed part of the roof of the massive ship.

The oil film was spreading from a separate part of the ship, apparently the stern.

The ship contains about 500,000 gallons of heavy fuel and other pollutants, and fears have grown that those chemicals could damage an environment that is home to dolphins, whales and other marine life.

Authorities are hoping

► The grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia lies on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.



PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to pump fuel from the ship, but due to bad weather the effort was being suspended again Wednesday.

Floating barriers placed

around the ship to protect the water were lifted by winds, allowing the oily film from the ship to spread throughout the bay. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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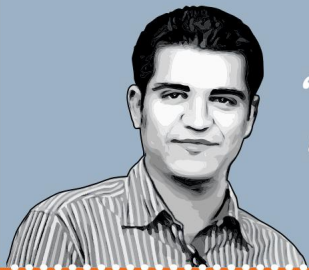
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UN considers plans as Syrian uprising flares

► UN struggles to overcome Russia's opposition to drafting a resolution to end the violence

Syrian troops battled army defectors in a string of towns in the mountains overlooking Damascus on Wednesday in a new assault to crush rebellious areas around the capital, activists said.

The battles in a mountain valley came after regime forces succeeded in largely retaking control of suburbs on the eastern side of the city in an offensive the past week that fueled some of the bloodiest days of the nearly 11-month-old uprising. More than 30 people were killed around the country Wednesday, activists said.

Activists say President Bashar Assad's forces have intensified their crackdown in hopes of silencing protesters and the army dissi-



► Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a caricature of Syrian President Bashar Assad's father during a demonstration.

dents who have joined them as the United Nations Security Council debates a draft resolution demanding that Assad step down.

On Tuesday, Western powers and Arab countries at the U.N. sought to overcome Russia's opposition to the measure. Addressing

the Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to allay Moscow's concerns that the resolution could open the door to eventual military intervention in Syria, as took place in Libya last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer. Clash



► Players from the Egyptian Al-Ahly club run for safety during clashes following their soccer match against Al-Masry at the soccer stadium in Port Said, Egypt, Wednesday. Dozens of Egyptians were killed in the riot.

AHMED HASSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly soccer riot resembled 'war'

At least 74 people were killed and hundreds injured when soccer fans rushed the field following an upset victory by the home team, Al-Masry, over its top club, Al-Ahly, setting off clashes and a stampede as riot police largely failed to intervene.

Ferry sinks off Papua New Guinea

Rescue crews were working to save people from the wa-

ter off Papua New Guinea's northeast coast after a ferry sank Thursday with as many as 350 people on board, officials said.

The MV Rabaul Queen

went down when travelling between the coastal towns of Lae and Kimbe after it sent a distress signal, authorities said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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What. Winter?

► Hundreds of cars are stranded on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago on Feb. 2, 2011, top, while traffic moves smoothly on the same stretch of road on Wednesday.



KIICHIRO SATO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A change in the weather

This time last year, Chicago was covered in snow following a winter blizzard of historic proportions, stranding hundreds of drivers for up to 12 hours overnight on the city's main thoroughfare and giving many city schoolchildren their first-ever snow day.

Aussie bus workers net big bonus

Employees of an Australian bus company have been given a \$15-million AU share of the proceeds of the sale of the business as a thank-you for their loyalty, the Herald Sun newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The 1,800 staff at Melbourne-based Grenda Corp. have received bonuses averaging more than \$8,300 AU and as much as \$30,000 after the Grenda family sold the 66-year-old business for \$400 million, the Herald Sun newspaper reported.

"We've had lots of loyal people over our 66-year journey and this was our way of rewarding the ones that are still with us," chief executive Geoff Grenda told Nine Network television.

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SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

El Salvador is a tiny country – less than half the size of Nova Scotia, with a population about the size of the GTA – but it is one of the most dangerous countries in the Western hemisphere. There were 3,985 violent deaths in El Salvador in 2010, most related to gang activity; that is a higher per-capita number than in Afghanistan.

That's why communities place a high priority on giving their young people tools to build a future. "Our preschool centres are critically important," says Laura Mata, chief of communications for World Vision El Salvador, which works with community groups to create programs to address their most pressing needs.

World Vision's Children's Clubs and Youth Clubs not only provide young people with a safe place to socialize, but also give them life skills and vocational training. (In one club, Kevin, 15 was learning to bake bread and fancy pastries; in another, a band of musicians practiced while another group took learned to paint.)

Carlos, who is now 17, remembers the first time he went to a World Vision Communications Club in Tacuba, a small mountain town near the Guatemalan border where local gangs are particularly powerful. "I was 13. Some of my friends had been to the club and done a radio show, and they needed more people. I went. I was very nervous. But it was such a nice experience my [nervousness] vanished."

Before that, Carlos had been playing hookey from school since age 10, had failed 4th grade and fallen in with a sketchy group. At the club, "I got really involved. I realized I had to stop doing the things I'd been doing. I started studying again." Today he

leads other teens in the group and works half-days at a local professional radio station while attending high school.

Of course World Vision Canada sponsorships support efforts like nutrition and health care programs in El Salvador. But Laura believes that is just as important to "improve knowl-



World Vision's Youth Clubs give children a place to have fun and learn, nurturing talents that give them hope for a productive, fulfilling future.

edge. You can't change lives by just giving tangible things," she says. "Change comes by giving life skills and vocational skills so that [young people] can be someone in the future."

At the Tacuba Communications Club, says Carlos, "getting into the radio shows is what changed my life."



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Public pensions prevent poverty: Research

- PM says OAS/GIC pension system needs overhaul
- Collection age could rise from 65 to 67 to cut costs

Research prepared for the federal government in 2009 shows that the old-age benefits cited by Stephen Harper as perhaps unsustainable are a key factor keeping seniors out of poverty.

The paper, titled Evaluation of the Old Age Security Program, shows that without Old Age Security or the Guaranteed Income Supplement, more than a third of women and more than a quarter of men in their 60s would fall below the poverty

line. "The OAS programs have a significant influence on the incidence of low income," the report's author, Richard Shillington, wrote.

The benefits are most important in the Maritimes and the North. "The OAS/GIS makes a huge contribution to the reduction of poverty in old age," said Andrew Jackson, chief economist for the labour congress.

Prime Minister Harper announced last week that

the public pension system is fiscally unsustainable, with costs expected to rise to \$108 billion in 2030 from \$41 billion this year.

Cutting costs will likely include raising the collection age. The presumption, said Jackson, is that people will work for an extra two years. "That is possible for some, but many older workers in their 60s are in ill health or are engaged in providing care for others."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OAS/GIC stats

- About 98 per cent of Canadians are eligible for OAS when they turn 65. To get the GIS top-up for low-income seniors, they must first qualify for OAS.
- Research shows that OAS and GIS improve an average senior's standard of living by about \$7,000 a year.
- For seniors with "modest" incomes, OAS and GIS accounts for 70 per cent of their incomes.

Name. Game



► A Target Apparel store is shown in the Rainbow Centre in Sudbury last January.

GINO DONATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing fair-weather for Target

American chain Target Corp. has reached a deal with Fairweather Ltd. under which the Canadian fashion retailer has agreed to stop using the Target name.

Facebook's IPO pokes Wall Street's elite

Facebook made a much-anticipated status update Wednesday: The Internet social network is going public eight years after its computer-hacking CEO Mark Zuckerberg started the service at Harvard University.

That means anyone with the right amount of cash will be able to own part of a Silicon Valley icon that quickly transformed from dorm-room startup to cultural touchstone.

If its initial public offering makes enough friends on Wall Street, Facebook will probably make its stock-market debut in three or four months as one of the world's most valuable companies. In its regulatory filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Facebook Inc. indicated it hopes to raise \$5 billion US.

That would be the most for an Internet IPO since



► Facebook is going public after eight years.

Google Inc. and its early backers raised \$1.9 billion in 2004. The final amount will likely change as Facebook's bankers gauge the investor demand.

Joining corporate America's elite would give Facebook newfound financial clout as it tries to become even more pervasive. It also could help Facebook fend off the challenge from Google, which is looking to solidify its status as the Internet's most powerful company with a rival social network called Plus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian car sales accelerate

Automakers saw strong Canadian sales in the opening month of 2012 with many reporting double-digit growth from a year ago. Overall sales grew 15.4 per cent to 97,497 vehicles last month, according to data released Wednesday from the Association of International Automobile

Manufacturers of Canada. This is attributed to low interest rates, buyers searching for better fuel efficiency, and those looking to replace older vehicles. Chrysler Canada had its best January in a decade, Ford lost its spot as Canada's top seller but gained traction and Toyota sales jumped. General Motors sales dropped 10 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada leaning less on U.S.: TD

The Canadian economy appears to be on a long-term trend toward less dependence on the United States, according to a new study by TD Economics.

The study, released Wednesday, found that Canada's economic reliance on the U.S. in terms of share of exports and GDP has dropped steadily over the last decade. For example, exports to the U.S. directly contributed an annual average of 0.5 percentage points to nominal GDP growth over the last decade. That was well below an average annual contribution of 2.3 percentage points during the 1980s and 1990s.

TD Economics says a rebound in U.S. economic growth should boost Canadian exports south of the border over the next few years.

But over the long term, the bank said Canada's economic prosperity will increasingly be driven by trade with other non-U.S. economies. That will reinforce the trend in recent years, where Canadian economic power is shifting more and more from Central Canada to the energy and resource-rich western provinces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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(- 18¢ US)

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(+ \$9.10 US)

FIGURES AS OF 3 P.M. WEDNESDAY

Last-ditch effort for WikiLeaks founder in U.K. court

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has launched a final attempt to persuade British officials not to force him to go to Sweden to face sex crimes allegations.

A lawyer for the 40-year-old Australian told Britain's highest court Wednesday that age-old legal tradition would be compromised if it endorsed a European Arrest Warrant written up by Swedish prosecutors.

The Supreme Court hearing is the latest chapter in Assange's months-long fight against allegations of molestation and rape lodged by two women he met during a trip to Sweden in 2010, just as his website grabbed worldwide attention with its leaks of sensitive U.S. government documents.

Assange denies the allegations, arguing that the



SASCHA SCHUERMANN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

► WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is making a final effort to avoid his extradition to Sweden to face sex crimes allegations.

sex was consensual, and has refused to return to Sweden, saying he fears the case is being manipulated to political ends.

Although Assange's saga has been shot through with international diplomacy, cyberactivism and scandal, the case hinges on a dry technicality: Whether Sweden's public prosecutor was qualified to issue a warrant for Assange's arrest.

In Britain as in the United States, generally only judges can issue arrest warrants, and U.K. courts only honour European arrest warrants issued by what they describe as judicial authorities. So far, British courts have upheld the grounds that prosecutors there, like elsewhere in Europe, play a quasi-judicial role. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINTER, WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER?

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



Dear Winter:

Please come back. I miss you.

It was cute at first, you disappeared. I thought it was for effect, maybe. You just

wanted to wait till the best moment, then, surprise! You'd show yourself when we least expected it. You flake, you.

But another week slid by.

Then I thought maybe you were making fun of all those weatherpeople who predicted a deep freeze. Stupid "media-ologists" and their TV-ready descriptions of complex systems. ("After the break, we'll tell you about tomorrow's Sleet Quasar!")

You showed them, I thought. But, then, still no sign of you.

Most recently, I thought maybe you wanted to make a point about other disappearances — manufacturing jobs, polar bears, the Toronto Maple Leafs at playoff time. These are good, important points to make. But, if that was your intention, your point has been made.

Where are you? You snapped in Edmonton a couple times, and blew through the Maritimes this week, but that's been pretty much it.

Let's have some Real Talk, OK? You're being selfish.

If you won't think of us, won't you think of the children? You're denying kids important life lessons they only learn when you're around. Like, when I was young, I learned that sledding had an elaborate social pecking order, from the kid who owned a GT Snowracer (King of the Hill) to the kid with the Crazy Carpet that was always reverting to its Fruit Roll-Up shape (Lowly Serf).

You provided me some of my only adventures growing up. In New Brunswick, we didn't have any of the most common natural disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, Bryan Adams concerts. The only Discovery Channel doc you'd ever see filmed in my hometown is Fog Chasers.

So, craving excitement, I had to get by with delivering newspapers in blizzards or playing street hockey in -15 C weather. It's perhaps sad that I've never felt more alive.

If this is what it takes to get you back, let me say this: I'm sorry. I'm sorry I took you for granted.

You were harsh, but I realize now it was necessary. A playful pinch to the cheeks or even a cold slap is a welcome respite from the limp handshake of the muddy impostor that has taken your place.

I miss making the first scratch-scratch footprints in a park of untouched snow. I miss Arctic fog rising off the water on a frigid day. I miss your cold embrace.

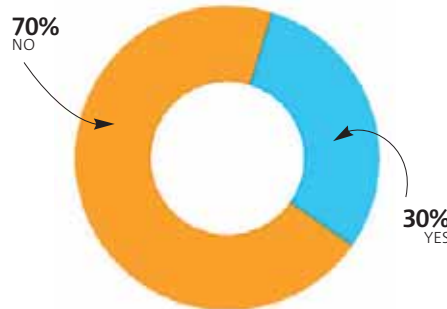
The place just isn't the same without you, Winter. Come back: my Crazy Carpet is always unrolled for you.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays



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and take the quick poll

Have you ever been a victim of
cyber-bullying?



Local tweets



► **@hithatsmybike:** Yay! #occupyyeg is now a travelling

circus! Only 4pm & they've already occupied 3 locations Call now to book #occupyyeg for YOUR lawn today!

► **@_katasrophe:** Hurricane: #yeg I think #redscarf has to do with heart&stroke... maybe she's not replying because she died? morbid?

► **@EricWilbur:** So excited to be a part of the Edmonton Eskimos organization! I cant wait to get up there! #TSN #CFL #Esk

► **@Luzzara:** Can I just say, this

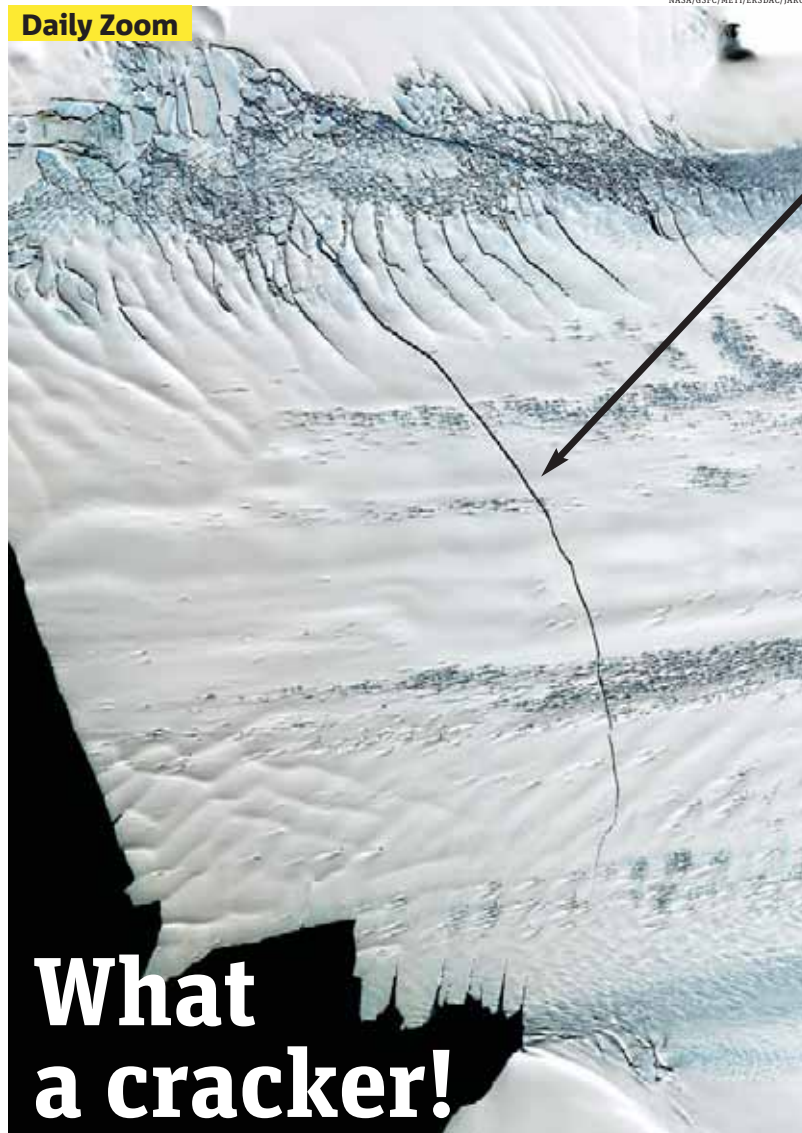
is truly the nicest winter in ages. Ahhhhhh #yeg #yeg-weather

► **@AndrewNg_:** So what does this mean for @occupyyeg when they wanted to rally against tuition fees but many students watched instead of joining in? #yeg

► **@theleanover:** Dear @yourAGA: Which is that painting in the Passion For Nature exhibit which depicts the village parade? It is small, and uh, rectangular.

► **@UALberta:** The university's position is not philosophical, it is operational. No illegal encampments are allowed, no matter the cause.

Daily Zoom



NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS

Crevice cuts ice from the north

ANTARCTICA. Nay, nay, it's not a scratch — it's a 30-kilometre-long crack that will carve an iceberg the size of New York City!

NASA has spotted a deep crevice on Pine Island Glacier, an ice stream that drains the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

The image, taken in November 2011 but only released Wednesday, shows the crack's growth. **• MWN**

80X60

The ice crack is 80 metres wide and 60 metres deep. Measurements suggest the ice shelf in the region is about 500 metres thick, with only about 50 metres of that floating above water.

Pine Island

► The Pine Island Glacier is part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and contains enough water to raise sea levels worldwide by more than six metres.

► Experts last year discovered warm currents are eroding ice from below, twice as fast as previously thought.



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scene

New Jersey



Hoboken, New Jersey, has denied a request for a spin-off of MTV's Jersey Shore reality show to film in the city. It is to star Nicole Polizzi and Jenni JWoww Farley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Neil Young: Steve Jobs listened to vinyl because of higher fidelity



MYKA JAKOUBEK

► Two civilizations collide during the constellation event of a lifetime in Firefly Theatre's Sky Life.

Sky Life starting to lift off

► The Firefly Theatre had some trouble getting their latest production off the ground

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNIFER LARAWAY
METRO EDMONTON



Sometimes inspiration can come from the most unusual places. For Annie Duncan, Artistic Director of Firefly Theatre and Circus, inspiration came from the impressive Metropolis Community Centre in Sir Winston Churchill Square. In fact, the presentation of Sky

Life was created specifically for the space. As soon as Duncan saw the venue she enlisted the talents of her rigger Adrian Young. The first thing Duncan wanted to know was if they could fly people in from a 40- to 60-foot drop. Although Young assured her it was possible, it was anything but smooth sailing from there.

While Duncan awaited for a structure to be built offsite that would fulfill her imagination, she got to work on an original storyline.

"Initially the story was about the Northern

The show

What you need to know about the show

► Background 200 tickets are available for each show. Each performance is approximately 35 minutes. All shows are family friendly.

Lights," she says.

But when the lighting on the final product was so different from prototype, Duncan needed to come up with a plan B and fast. She took the challenge

in stride.

"Artists are always faced with not having what we need — whether it's time, money, or supply. So, I sat down with John Elliott, the co-founder of Firefly, to revamp the production. I still wanted people to come from the sky so we shifted the story to be about constellations."

The story follows two divisions of people: sky people and the elevated ones a.k.a stilt walkers who all gather for the most spectacular constellation event in recent memory. In order to marry the two storylines, Duncan relied on the

familiar storyline of an old classic to weave everyone together: The Ugly Duckling. Out of all the performers, there is one stilt walker who doesn't actually have stilts at all; instead, she has buckets. As the sky lights up like no one has ever seen before, the unusual stilt walker comes into her own.

Tickets for this weekend's performances are complimentary and available at the door. Shows run nightly at 8 p.m. plus additional performances at 4 p.m. on the weekend. For complete information, visit fireflytheatre.com.

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Men, watch for it

► DC Comics announcing it will release a prequel series to the popular graphic novel the Watchmen ► Creator Alan Moore not involved in series



**SAM
CASTONE**

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A seven-part prequel series to Watchmen, one of the most popular graphic novels of all time, will appear this summer, according to DC Entertainment, publishers of DC Comics.

The news is sure to excite fanboys, but also disgust some: Original Watchmen creator Alan Moore, who has long feuded with DC, is not involved with the new series and none too happy about their decision.

Instead, a pack of other star talents, including J. Michael Straczynski (The Amazing Spider-Man) and Darwyn Cooke (Catwoman), will write install-

Watch for it

Looking ahead, John Higgins, who illustrates the novels, said that even though the Watchmen has become a touchstone for comics and graphic novels, the new series can expand on its mythology.

► John Higgins: "The challenge is to make the stories modern and relevant to 2012 and to show

ments, each centering around a different character.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," said

what can be done with respect and consideration for the source material that has inspired so many people over the years. By adding to the mythos and not to detract from it. The Watchmen had such an influence on graphic storytelling since it first appeared and is a timeless classic. If we can create a new set of stories that can be enjoyed 25 years on, that would be an achievement and a reward in itself."

DC Entertainment co-publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee.

"After 25 years, the Watchmen are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be

told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."

The original, published in 1986 and 1987, followed a defunct batch of superheroes brought back together after the death of a colleague.

But as PhD candidates can tell you, it's also a deep reflection on post-war American anxiety and paranoia.

Time Magazine named it one of the best 100 novels of all time.

Moore, meanwhile, lives in England, and continues to write — just not for DC.

"Completely shameless," he called the prequels.



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No mini meatball ... yet

► Calzone not in the oven for Snooki ► Translation: Pregnancy rumour is false

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared Snooki was pregnant.

It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumour from RadarOnline.

"She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend Jionni LaValle had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

While a photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki bump, it did fail to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces.

Finally, she made an appearance on *Opie & Anthony* to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki.

"Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it. ● MONICA WEYMOUTH



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity tweets



Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!



@JessicaSimpson



@SteveMartinToGo

PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

@joshgrobman



Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.



@jeweljk

We have 56 calves on the ground—SO cute—ya just wanna hug them all!



► Leslie Carter

Carter sister dies

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter and a star of *House of Carters* — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death.

"Our family is grieving

right now and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter, and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement. ● METRO

Soul Train host Don Cornelius dead in apparent suicide

Soul Train producer and host Don Cornelius was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Cornelius created the show in 1970, and hosted it until 1993.

"He was a true television visionary and his contributions to African American culture, music, and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said Kenard Gibbs, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement.

● METRO



► Don Cornelius

Note: Baby Gaga must be Italian

Lady Gaga is thinking about starting a family, but she has two conditions for her baby-to-be: It has to be from artificial insemination and it must be Italian, she explains in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

"I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says.

As for how things are going with her current boyfriend, Taylor Kinney — who is not Italian — Gaga says, "You know I don't talk about my love life, but I'm very happy."

● METRO



Lady Gaga

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART



- The popularity of the wide-brimmed has been bubbling on the runway for a while now
- But this winter, hats from nearly all decades have become a full-blown trend
- Here are some of our favourites

Return of the hat

(you knew it would be back)



► Alexandra Davenport, a student in London, pulls off the hat with aplomb.

AUBERGINE BORSALINO

► \$492, lockhatters.co.uk



SPORTMAX FEDORA

► \$118, my-wardrobe.com



PAUL SMITH FEDORA

► \$215, paulsmith.co.uk



EUGENIA KIM GABRIELLA RABBIT FELT FEDORA

► \$375, net-a-porter.com



TOPSHOP FLOPPY FEDORA

► \$50, topshop.com



3
life

Oscar contenders?

The most award show worthy dresses from ss12 couture week:

Armani Privé

A strapless universally flattering shape + a shimmering bandage effect = Best Dressed List Bait. Take note Jessica.



Chanel

The whimsical, fashion-forward girliness is just right for one of the more adventurous 'Hollywood Young Things' (we're talking about you, Emma Stone.)



Gambattista Valli

It's black, edgy and mysterious with sheer panels and cut-outs. A total Rooney Mara kind of dress.



Toronto Fashion Week gets new name as World MasterCard becomes sponsor.

THREE FAB HATTERS



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RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

A ruggedly handsome space

► Home decor expert Karl Lohnes lays down the rules for choosing an area rug

DESIGN CENTRE



KARL LOHNES
HOME@
METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have laminate wood floors throughout my small condo and would like to add an area rug to the living room, which is 10 by 14 feet. What size should I choose and what style won't make it feel cramped?

T. Fulham, Winnipeg

A. Area rugs not only help to link living room furnishings together, but to define spaces that are open to one another as well.

The biggest mistakes people make when choosing

an area rug is that they buy the wrong size (often too small), and they choose a look that doesn't belong with anything else in the room.

The simplest way to determine the right sized area rug in a living area is to measure the width of the room then subtract two or three feet; this will give you the width of the rug needed. For instance, if your room is 10-feet wide you will need an eight-foot wide rug.

Area rugs come in predetermined sizes; an eight-foot wide rug will be about 10-feet long. That is the size that suits your living area. **Best style of carpet**

If you have printed fabrics on your furnishings or draperies then go with a discretely patterned or solid-coloured rug.



If furnishings are upholstered in plain fabrics, then a patterned rug can help add pizzazz to the overall decor scheme.

Another idea is to take inspiration from artwork

that you might have collected. For example, if you like watercolour paintings, then choose a rug that has soft, airy colours and patterns. If you collect black-and-white photography, then a solid,

neutral-coloured rug will work nicely in the room.

If your room is feeling cramped with furnishings, then choose a colour of rug that is very similar to the colour of the wood flooring;

How will it wear?

- **Synthetic fibres** are durable for busy lived-in rooms and can take on the look of elegant wool and silk.
- **Think longevity** These rugs have about a five-year lifespan, whereas real wool carpets can last a lifetime.

this will give you the cosiness of the rug but visually will not chop up the space by adding yet another element.

How much to spend

An eight-by-10 foot area rug can cost from \$200 to \$5,000, depending on the quality. I always suggest spending between one to two times the price of the sofa. It's an easy way to gage the quality and value needed so the rug works with the rest of the room.

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YOU DON'T HAVE AN UGLY MUG, SO WHY DRINK FROM ONE?

CHARLES THE BUTLER



ASKCHARLES
THEBUTLER@
METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT
CHARLES
MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the butler,
How do I remove tough
tea and coffee stains on my
mugs? Thanks!
Tran

Dear Tran,

Here are a few good suggestions for you.

Put some baking soda and warm water in the mug and wash the inside with a soft sponge (do not use any abrasive side). If you do this regularly, it should work like a charm.

If the stain is a little older, add some lemon juice to



► Coffee: So delicious to drink, but so difficult to clean.

the baking soda and make a paste. Let the paste stand in the mug for an hour or so before washing with the sponge.

The acid and baking soda combination should do the trick. If you use the baking soda regularly, you won't need to use any chemicals.

If the above fails, I have used a Magic Eraser sponge

with success.

Also, on really old, tough stains, I've made a mixture of 1 part dishwasher soap to 3 parts warm water and ½ a cup of white vinegar and let this sit inside the cup for an hour or so. It worked very well.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE
TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@
METRONEWS.CA

Ready to be a winter warrior?

► Snow in an average shovelful can weigh nearly 30 pounds ► And twisting to throw a load is hard on the back

DIY IDEAS

Although many areas have been relatively snow-free this winter, snow removal woes are just one storm away.

So here are some strategies, and the latest tools.

First, have a plan before the flakes start falling. If you're not physically up to shovelling, arrange for a plowing service or enlist some kids to at least do your walkways; many communities mandate that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of a storm.

If you are taking on the snow yourself, take it easy.

Warm up, start slow and cover your mouth if the air is very cold, according to Dr. Grace Cater, a cardiologist in Cleveland. "Snow shovelling can be more strenuous than exercising full throttle on a treadmill,"

Cater says on MetroHealth's Heart and Vascular Center's webpage.

Bill Foster, who for 40 years has shovelled his own and neighbours' snowy sidewalks and driveways in the western Chicago suburbs, says common sense can make the job easier.

"The biggest mistake people make is starting with the easy stuff," Foster says.

"When you're freshest and strongest, start at the end of the driveway where the plow dumps all the heavy road snow."

A few more tips for keeping things manageable, from Good Housekeeping magazine:

1. Don't put your back into it: Use your leg and thigh muscles instead, and push more snow than you lift.

2. Layer up: No heavy down coats for this job — it's better to dress in layers you can remove as you work. Make sure caps or masks

don't impede your ability to see cars, icy spots, or people. You don't want to whack someone with your shovel.

3. Drink up: Water keeps

you hydrated as you work.

4. Stop when you need to, and take breaks every 15 minutes or sooner: Make sure family members and friends know you're out

there.

Foster recommends cutting the driveway down the middle so you are shovelling smaller passes out to the sides from the centre

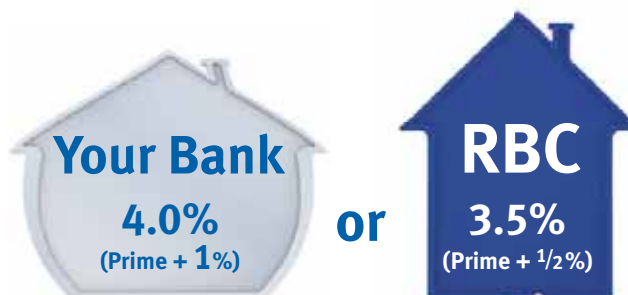
line. "And never wait till the snow stops falling," he says. "I'd go out two or three times during a storm to stay ahead of it all."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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► Garden-variety snow shovels have been doing the snow removal job for hundreds of years, but many of today's tools can make it easier.

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Delicious flavour of simplicity

► Rib roast with roasted veggies and shallot-merlot gravy makes for elegant meal ► Features pantry staples



► Perfect for a dinner party, this meal serves 24.

Make a special meal for your next dinner party with this rib roast, roasted veggies and a flavourful gravy made with shallots and merlot wine. Be sure to serve the wine alongside for a perfect match.

Preparation:

- 1** In large roasting pan, arrange onions, carrots, celery, garlic, thyme and rosemary in even layer.
- 2** Season rib roast all over with salt and pepper. Place roast on top of vegetables in roasting pan. Roast in 245 C (475 F) oven 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 160 C (325 F). Roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until roast reads 55 C (130 F) at the centre for medium or 50 C (120 F) for medium-rare.
- 3** Transfer roast to a serving platter and cover with foil and keep warm. Set aside roasting pan.
- 4** Roasted Root Vegetables: In a large bowl, toss carrots, parsnips, beets and potatoes with oil, rosemary, salt and pepper. Spread evenly on 2 large

rimmed baking sheets. When roast comes out of oven, raise temperature to 200 C (400 F). Roast vegetables, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until tender and browned.

- 5** Shallot Merlot Gravy: Place roasting pan over medium-high heat. Add wine to reserved roasting pan juices and scrape up any browned bits from bottom of pan.
 - 6** Using a slotted spoon, remove and discard any solids from pan. Add shallots, thyme, and 500 ml (2 cups) of the beef broth. Bring to a simmer and cook for 3 minutes.
 - 7** In bowl, whisk remaining beef broth and flour. While stirring, add this mixture to roasting pan. Cook while stirring for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve roasted vegetables and gravy alongside roast.
- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Ingredients:

- 4 onions, quartered
- 4 each large carrots cut into large pieces
- 4 each celery stalks, cut into large pieces
- 1 head garlic, broken into cloves and peeled
- 4 sprigs each fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 bone-in rib roast (5.5 to 6.3 kg/12 to 14 lb)
- Salt and black pepper

Roasted Root Vegetables

- 1 kg (2 lb) each carrots, parsnips, beets, and Yukon gold potatoes cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) pieces
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) vegetable or canola oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground black pepper

Shallot-Merlot Gravy

- 250 ml (1 cup) Merlot wine
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced fresh thyme
- 750 ml (3 cups) beef broth
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- Salt and black pepper

Weekly Cookbook

Pitchin' In chronicles Food Network celebrity chef Lynn Crawford's road trip across North America, describing the people she meets, the land, and of course, the food.

She travels from Vancouver Island to haul the best Dungeness crab available to Perth County, Ont., famous for some of the best pork in Canada, and beyond to places such as Kansas, Florida and Texas.

Crawford shares more than 100 amazing and simple recipes from her adventures.

These eats include Potato-Crusted Halibut, Cider-Glazed Pork Chops, Crispy Calamari Salad, Veal Chop with Citrus Salad, Honey But-



ter Roasted Scallops, and Lamb Shepherd's Pie.

The chef doesn't forget that any good meal ends with dessert. Among the ones in Pitchin' In are Pecan Blueberry Cobbler, Warm Pear Cake with Bacon Caramel Sauce and Red Velvet Cupcakes.

Oyster stars in tasty canapes

With smoked oysters in your pantry you can whip up this simple little appetizer in minutes!

Change it up by using a variety of crackers or flatbreads and breads for serving.

Preparation:

- 1** In a small bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, horseradish and chives. Divide mixture equally among

appropriate number of breads. Top each with 1 smoked oyster. Garnish as desired.

CLOVER LEAF/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE WAS ADAPTED FOR

METRO NEWS BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Oyster Canapes



► This recipe serves 16.

Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sour cream
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) light mayonnaise
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) prepared horseradish
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped chives
- 1 can (85 g) smoked oysters, drained
- Dark rye or pumpernickel bread

No need to tank this season

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RYAN KENNEDY

EDMONTON@METRONEWS.CA



It is, unfortunately, that time of the year again. Despite a nice win over rival Vancouver

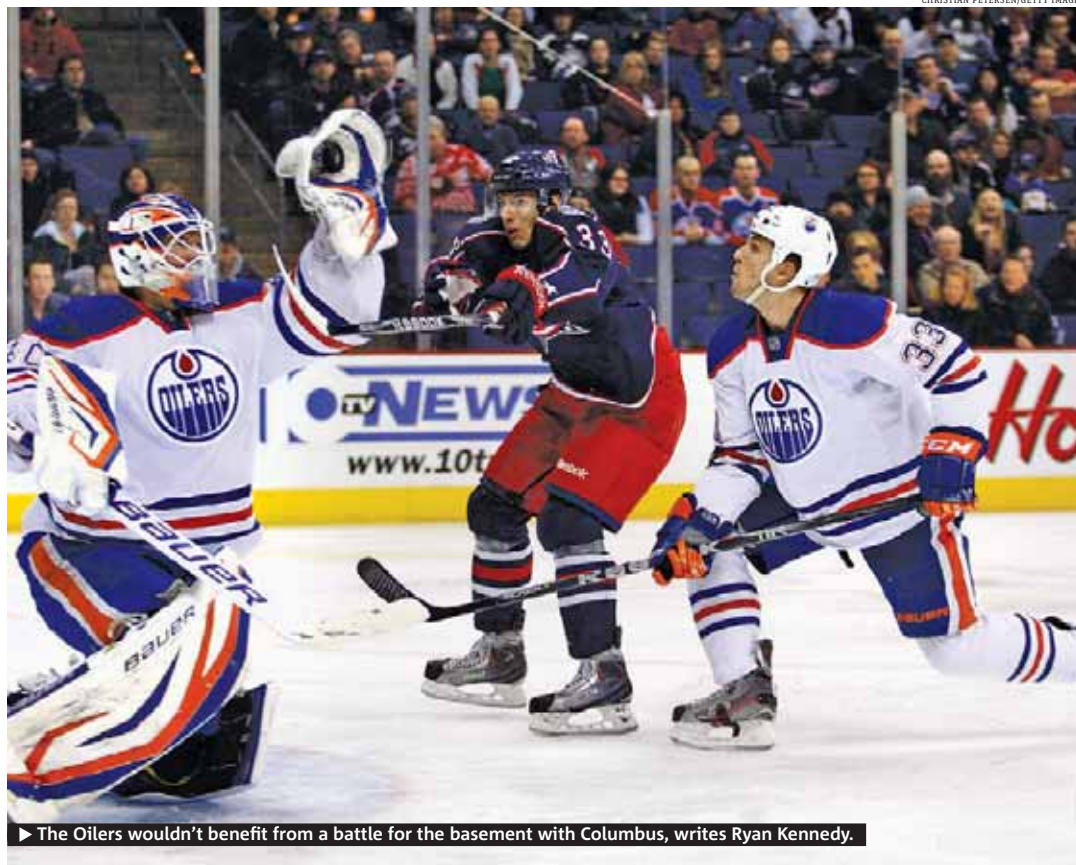
on Tuesday night, the Oilers find themselves out of contention by the end of the all-star break. But while this was seen as an OK development in the past few years, I'd argue the best course of action for the Oilers this season is to treat every contest like a playoff game and do what they can to make things tight in the Western Conference.

Whether or not the Oilers tanked on purpose in the past few seasons in order to draft Taylor Hall and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins with consecutive No. 1 picks is up for debate and almost irrelevant now.

The franchise is stocked to the gills with young forward talent that includes the two previously mentioned phenoms, Jordan Eberle, Magnus Paajarvi, Anton Lander and Teemu Hartikainen, among others.

On defence, most of the prospects are still a year or two away from the NHL at least, though 2011 first-rounder Oscar Klefbom could be the exception to the rule.

All of which is to say, the



► The Oilers wouldn't benefit from a battle for the basement with Columbus, writes Ryan Kennedy.

Oilers don't need another No. 1 pick. Tanking will do nothing to help the spirit of a team that is oh so used to losing already and while you never turn down a potential superstar, there's no point giving up on a season either.

True, the Oilers will not make the playoffs. And true, they may still win that

first-overall selection via lottery (if the Columbus Blue Jackets have taught us anything, it's that they have no luck), but if Edmonton puts together a modest run in the second half, it's not the end of the world if it finishes with, say, the fifth to ninth pick overall. That's because there's a boatload of blue-line help available

this year, including a slew of players who hail from out West.

Everett's Ryan Murray tops the list, with Red Deer's Matt Dumba and Moose Jaw's Morgan Rielly close behind. Griffin Reinhart of the local Oil Kings would be a perfect fit, while Portland's Derrick Pouliot also brings a lot to the table.

Outside the Western League, there's Ottawa's Cody Ceci and Jacob Trouba of Team USA.

Murray may be the only straight-to-the-NHL candidate and in that case the Oilers would need a top-four pick, but otherwise the talent is there and Edmonton doesn't need to tank to get it.

Brewers outfielder takes to the ice with Sharks

On his fourth attempt during a hockey breakaway drill, Nyjer Morgan shot the puck past Sharks goalie Thomas Greiss to score in the bottom right corner of the net. Greiss did the Milwaukee Brewers outfielder a favour and let it go in, with Morgan later thanking him with a firm pat to the chest pad.

A giddy Morgan cheered, thrust his stick in the air and became a bit wobbly on the ice before recovering.

When asked about it after his outing Wednesday, he became defensive.

"But how many athletes

First love

Morgan grew up playing hockey and appeared in seven games with the Regina Pats.

do you know who can just jump on the ice and do what I just did? Exactly," Morgan said. "Pretty cool, huh? It's been many moons, it's been a lot of years, yeah. And I've still got it, you see that?"

At last, the diehard San Jose fan and former hockey player got the chance to practise with the team

he loves.

"Tony Plush," as he refers to himself, stepped out for the first time 36 minutes into the hour-long session sporting a Sharks jersey with "Plush" on back.

Morgan's first three shots on goal were easily stopped by Greiss, who eased up on the last attempt.

"He just came down with a nice shot and put it in," Greiss said. "He skates really well. He's said he likes to get on his skates and have fun. You could see that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Nyjer Morgan, right, shakes hands with former San Jose Sharks player Mike Ricci.

4

sports

Oilers preview

Chicago
at Edmonton
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN



The Oilers (19-26-5) welcome Chicago (29-15-7), which is winless in its last three games, dropping from first to sixth in the Western Conference. The Blackhawks lost 3-2 to Vancouver on Tuesday. Viktor Stalberg scored his 15th goal of the season in the loss. Stalberg has six goals in his last nine games. Patrick Sharp and Jonathan Toews returned to the lineup after missing time with injuries. Duncan Keith had more than 30 minutes of ice time for the fourth time this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	48	31	12	1	4	135	100	67	15-2-0-2	16-7-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1
d-Boston	48	32	14	1	1	175	105	66	17-1-1-1	15-7-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
d-Washington	49	26	19	2	2	139	141	56	18-6-0-1	8-13-2-1	5-3-2-0	L1
Philadelphia	49	29	14	2	4	163	144	64	11-7-1-3	18-7-1-1	5-3-0-2	L1
Pittsburgh	51	29	18	2	2	157	132	62	15-7-2-0	14-11-0-2	8-2-0-0	L1
Ottawa	53	27	20	4	2	160	164	60	14-9-0-1	13-11-4-1	5-5-0-0	L4
Toronto	51	26	19	3	3	156	152	58	15-8-2-2	11-11-1-1	5-4-0-1	W1
New Jersey	49	27	19	1	2	133	139	57	13-9-0-2	14-10-1-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Florida	48	22	15	5	6	122	136	55	11-5-1-6	11-10-4-0	3-3-2-2	L1
Winnipeg	51	23	22	3	3	126	144	52	15-8-0-2	8-14-3-1	3-6-0-1	W1
Tampa Bay	49	22	23	1	3	140	168	48	14-7-0-1	8-16-1-2	5-4-0-1	W5
NY Islanders	49	20	22	5	2	120	145	47	11-11-4-0	9-11-1-2	6-3-1-0	W1
Buffalo	50	21	24	3	2	122	150	47	11-9-3-2	10-15-0-0	3-6-1-0	W2
Montreal	50	19	22	2	7	131	137	47	9-10-2-4	10-12-0-2	5-3-0-2	L1
Carolina	52	18	25	5	4	132	164	45	13-12-0-3	5-13-5-1	4-4-1-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	51	34	16	1	0	163	118	69	20-2-1-0	14-14-0-0	8-2-0-0	W1
d-Vancouver	50	31	15	0	4	161	124	66	15-6-0-3	16-9-0-1	7-2-0-1	W3
d-San Jose	48	28	14	3	3	137	110	62	16-8-2-0	12-6-1-3	5-3-1-2	W2
Nashville	51	31	16	3	1	145	131	66	16-7-2-1	15-9-1-0	9-1-0-0	W5
St. Louis	49	29	13	1	6	124	102	65	21-3-1-3	8-10-0-3	7-1-1-1	L2
Chicago	51	29	15	4	3	164	147	60	15-9-1-3	10-9-3-0	5-2-3-0	L3
Los Angeles	50	24	16	4	6	111	111	58	14-11-0-4	10-5-4-2	5-2-1-2	W1
Minnesota	50	24	19	2	5	119	131	55	13-7-1-2	11-12-1-3	3-6-0-1	L1
Colorado	52	26	24	2	0	133	147	54	14-12-0-0	12-12-2-0	3-6-1-0	L3
Dallas	48	25	21	0	2	126	136	52	14-8-0-2	11-12-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Calgary	51	23	22	3	3	121	140	52	13-11-1-1	10-14-2-2	5-4-0-1	L2
Phoenix	51	22	21	3	5	131	138	52	10-10-2-2	12-11-1-3	3-5-0-2	L1
Anaheim	49	19	23	3	4	128	145	45	13-12-1-0	6-11-2-4	8-1-1-0	W1
Edmonton	50	19	26	1	4	125	144	43	13-8-1-2	6-18-0-2	3-5-1-1	W1
Columbus	50	13	31	1	5	115	169	32	8-13-1-2	5-18-0-3	2-7-0-1	L5

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results

Toronto 1 Pittsburgh 0
Florida 4 Washington 2
N.Y. Rangers 1 Buffalo 0 (SO)
Dallas at Anaheim
Columbus at Los Angeles
Tuesday's results
Edmonton 3 Colorado 2
Vancouver 3 Chicago 2 (OT)
Winnipeg 2 Philadelphia 1 (SO)
Boston 4 Ottawa 3
Buffalo 3 Montreal 1
Detroit 3 Calgary 1
Pittsburgh 5 Toronto 4 (SO)
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 1
Nashville 5 Minnesota 4
New Jersey 4 N.Y. Rangers 3 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Carolina 2
San Jose 6 Columbus 0
Tampa Bay 4 Washington 3 (OT)
Tonight's games — All Times Eastern
Carolina at Boston, 7 p.m.
Montreal at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 1, PENGUINS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — MacArthur Tor (tripping) 3:37, Letang Pgh (boarding) 5:25.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Malkin Pgh (holding) 11:34.
Third Period
1. Toronto, MacArthur 16 (Grabovski, Kulemin) 13:55
Penalties — Grabovski Tor (tripping) 4:43, Letang Pgh (slashing) 8:38, Michalek Pgh (interference) 14:59.
Shots on goal by
Pittsburgh 4 12 9 — 25
Toronto 8 9 7 — 24
Goal — Pittsburgh: Johnson (L, 2-6-2); Toronto: Reimer (W, 8-5-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Pittsburgh: 0-2; Toronto: 0-4.
Attendance — 19,542 (18,819) at Toronto.

LATE TUESDAY
CANUCKS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2 (OT)

First Period
1. Vancouver, Kesler 14 (Edler) 7:58
2. Chicago, Mayers 4 (Montador, Seabrook) 11:11
Penalty — Ballard Vcr (clipping) 3:30.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Third Period
3. Chicago, Stalberg 15 (Kane, Toews) 1:17
4. Vancouver, Hodgson 14 (Hansen, Hamhuis) 4:08
Penalty — Burrows Vcr (boarding) 14:31.
Overtime
5. Vancouver, D.Sedin 22 (H.Sedin, Edler) 3:37
Penalties — None.
Shots on goal by
Chicago 9 15 12 3—39
Vancouver 12 6 10 5—33

Goal — Chicago: Crawford (L, 18-12-5); Vancouver: Schneider (W, 11-5-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Chicago: 0-2; Vancouver: 0-0.
Attendance — 18,860 (18,860) at Vancouver.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	27	32	59
Giroux, Pha	18	37	55
Stamkos, TB	33	21	54
Tavares, NYI	22	31	52
Ma.Hossa, Chi	20	33	52
Datsyuk, Det	14	39	52
H.Sedin, Vcr	11	42	52
D.Sedin, Vcr	22	30	52
Lupul, Tor	20	32	52
Toews, Chi	27	24	51
Kessel, Tor	26	25	51
Spezza, Ott	20	30	50
Neal, Pgh	27	21	48
Karlsson, Ott	8	40	48

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. YANKEES — Sent RHP Kevin Whelan outright to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
SEATTLE — Agreed to terms with INF Carlos Guillen on a minor league contract.
TORONTO — Agreed to terms with RHP Francisco Cordero on a one-year contract. Designated OF Darin Mastroianni for assignment.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PITTSBURGH — Agreed to terms with RHP Juan Cruz on a minor league contract.
WASHINGTON — Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Durbin on a minor-league contract.

CFL

EDMONTON — Signed P/K Eric Wilbur. Released import K Damon Duval.
WINNIPEG — Re-signed QB Joey Elliott.

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE — Fined N.Y. Giants DE Osi Umenyiora \$20,000 for missing a mandatory Super Bowl media session Wednesday morning.
KANSAS CITY — Announced the retirement of offensive co-ordinator Bill Muir.
OAKLAND — Named Greg Knapp offensive co-ordinator.

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE — Fined Columbus F Jared Boll \$2,500 for an illegal check to the head of San Jose F Joe Thornton in a Jan. 31 game. Fined New Jersey F Eric Boulton \$2,500 for slashing N.Y. Rangers F Mike Rupp in a Jan. 31 game.
ANAHEIM — Recalled RW Kyle Palmieri from Syracuse (AHL).
BUFFALO — Recalled F Zack Kassian from Rochester (AHL).
CAROLINA — Recalled F Drayson Bowman from Charlotte (AHL).
FLORIDA — Recalled G Brian Foster from San Antonio (AHL).
MONTREAL — Recalled F Louis Leblanc from Hamilton (AHL).

MLS

COLORADO — Signed technical director Paul Bravo to a three-year contract extension.
LOS ANGELES — Signed F Edson Buddle.
PHILADELPHIA — Traded MF Kyle Nakazawa and a 2013 second-round draft pick to the LA Galaxy for an international roster spot.

NFL

SUPER BOWL

Sunday's game
At Indianapolis — All Times Eastern
New England vs. N.Y. Giants, 6:20 p.m.
RECENT SUPER BOWL RESULTS
2011 — Green Bay 31 Pittsburgh 25
2010 — New Orleans 31 Indianapolis 17
2009 — Pittsburgh 27 Arizona 23
2008 — N.Y. Giants 17 New England 14
2007 — Indianapolis 29 Chicago 17

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Manchester City	23	17	3	3	60	19	54
Manchester Utd	23	17	3	3	56	21	54
Tottenham	23	15	4	4	44	25	49
Chelsea	23	12	6	5	41	26	42
Newcastle	23	11	6	6	34	30	39
Liverpool	23	10	8	5	28	21	38
Arsenal	23	11	4	8	39	33	37
Sunderland	23	8	6	9	32	24	30
Stoke	23	8	6	9	23	35	30
Everton	23	8	5	10	23	26	29
Norwich	23	7	8	8	32	39	29
Aston Villa	23	6	10	7	28	31	28
Fulham	23	6	9	8	29	32	27
Swansea	23	6	9	8	24	28	27
West Bromwich	23	7	5	11	23	32	26
QPR	23	5	6	12	24	39	21
Bolton	23	6	2	15	28	47	20
Blackburn	23	4	6	13	33	47	18
Wolverhampton	23	4	6	13	25	43	18
Wigan	23	3	6	14	20	48	15

Yesterday's results

Aston Villa 2 Queens Park Rangers 2
Blackburn 0 Newcastle 2
Bolton 0 Arsenal 0
Fulham 1 West Bromwich Albion 1
Sunderland 3 Norwich 0

AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

FIRST ROUND

GROUP D

Yesterday's results
At Libreville, Gabon
Mali 2 Botswana 1
At Franceville, Gabon
Ghana 1 Guinea 1
FRANCE
LEAGUE CUP
SEMIFINALS
Yesterday's result
Marseille 2 Nice 1

ITALY

SERIE A

Yesterday's results

Cagliari 4 Roma 2
Inter Milan 4 Palermo 4
Lazio 2 AC Milan 0
Napoli 0 Cesena 0
Udinese 2 Lecce 1
Catania at Siena (ppd., snow)
Fiorentina at Bologna (ppd., snow)
Genoa at Atalanta (ppd., snow)

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY

SEMIFINALS — FIRST LEG

Yesterday's result

Valencia 1 Barcelona 1

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	18	6	.750	—
d-Philadelphia	16	6	.727	1
d-Atlanta	16	6	.727	1
Miami	16	6	.727	1
Indiana	15	6	.714	1½
Orlando	13	9	.591	4
Boston	11	10	.524	5½
Milwaukee	10	11	.476	6½
Cleveland	8	12	.400	8
New York	8	13	.381	8½
New Jersey	8	15	.348	9½
Toronto	7	16	.304	10½
Washington	4	18	.182	13
Detroit	4	20	.167	14
Charlotte	3	20	.130	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	—
d-L.A. Clippers	12	6	.667	3½
Denver	14	7	.667	3
d-Dallas	14	9	.609	4
Utah	12	7	.632	4
San Antonio	14	9	.609	4
L.A. Lakers	13	9	.591	4½
Portland	13	9	.591	4½
Houston	12	10	.545	5½
Memphis	11	10	.524	6
Minnesota	10	12	.455	7½
Phoenix	8	13	.381	9
Golden State	7	12	.368	9
Sacramento	6	15	.286	11
New Orleans	4	18	.182	13½

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results

Boston 100 Toronto 64
Indiana 109 Minnesota 99
Milwaukee 105 Miami 97
New Jersey 99 Detroit 96
Oklahoma City 96 Dallas 86
Orlando 109 Washington at 103
Philadelphia 98 Chicago 82
Phoenix 120 New Orleans 103
Portland 112 Charlotte 68
San Antonio 99 Houston 91
L.A. Clippers at Utah
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 100 Toronto 77
Boston 93 Cleveland 90
Golden State 93 Sacramento 90
Indiana 106 New Jersey 99
L.A. Lakers 106 Charlotte 73
Memphis 100 Denver 97 (OT)
New York 113 Detroit 86
Tonight's games — All times Eastern
Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Utah at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NBL

Last night's results

Oshawa 106 Summerside 90
Saint John 90 Moncton 80
Tonight's game
All Times Eastern
Summerside at London, 7 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
Halifax at Quebec, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Oshawa at London, 2 p.m.

CELTICS 100, RAPTORS 64

TORONTO (64)
Jam.Johnson 3-11 0-17, Davis 4-6 2-4 10, Gray 4-6 0-3 8, Calderon 0-5 1-11, DeRozan 3-12 2-5 8, Butler 2-2 0-0 6, Bayless 5-12 2-2 14, A.Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Barbosa 2-9 0-0 4, Forbes 2-8 1-2 6, Carter 0-0 0-0 0, Alabi 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-73 8-18 64.
BOSTON (100)
Pierce 5-11 3-4 17, Garnett 3-5 0-0 7, O'Neal 3-4 0-0 6, Bradley 5-6 1-1 11, Allen 5-9 0-0 12, Wilcox 0-2 0-0 0, Bass 4-8 4-4 12, Pietrus 2-7 0-0 6, Moore 3-8 1-1 8, Pavlovic 2-7 0-0 6, Stiemsma 1-2 0-0 2, Ja.Johnson 5-5 1-2 11, Daniels 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 39-75 10-12 100.
Toronto 16 19 14 15 —64
Boston 29 28 20 23 —100
3-Point Goals—Toronto 6-14 (Butler 2-2, Bayless 2-5, Jam.Johnson 1-2, Forbes 1-2, Barbosa 0-1, Calderon 0-2), Boston 12-24 (Pierce 4-6, Allen 2-3, Pavlovic 2-5, Pietrus 2-6, Garnett 1-1, Moore 1-3). Fouled Out—Jam.Johnson. Rebounds—Toronto 45 (Davis 12), Boston 51 (Bass 9). Assists—Toronto 16 (Calderon 7), Boston 30 (Pierce 8). Total Fouls—Toronto 19, Boston 20. Technicals—Toronto defensive three second, Boston defensive three second. A—18,624 (18,624) at Boston.

TENNIS

ATP OPEN SUD DE FRANCE

At Montpelier, France

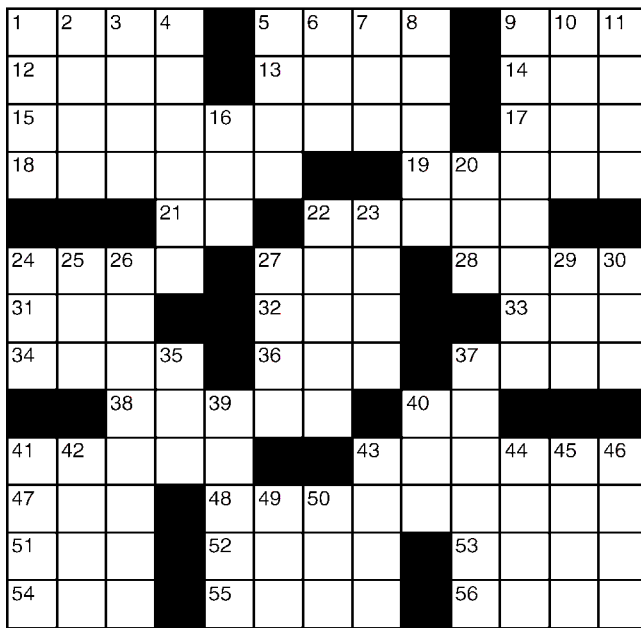
Singles — Second Round

Gilles Simon (2), France, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-3, 6-2.
Richard Gasquet (4), France, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Guillaume Rufin, France, def. Feliciano Lopez (5), Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (7), Germany, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 6-4, 7-5.
Doubles — First Round
Treat Conrad Huey, Philippines, and Ken Skupski,

Crossword

Across

- 1 Close
5 Sidewalk eatery
9 Eccentric
12 Volcanic outflow
13 "Caro nome" is one
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Comic's specialty
17 Right angle
18 Book after Job
19 iPhone function
21 Chance, for short
22 Hue
24 Presentation
27 Second person
28 Out of control
31 Charged bit
32 Pismire
33 Ram's mate
34 Profound
36 In medias —
37 Seaport of Yemen
38 Exciting
40 Commercial
41 Search for prey
43 Plant life treatises
47 Rowing need
48 Getting the jump on
51 USO audience
52 Trumpet
53 Chinese gang
54 Praise in verse
55 Dumbstruck
56 Remain
- Down**
1 Feed the hogs
2 — Christian Andersen
3 Eye layer
4 Candle fat
5 Trash containers
6 "All the Things You —"



- 7 Evergreen type
8 Supporter of the arts?
9 — bandit (slot machine)
10 Sandwich shop
11 Action figure, really
16 Mischievous kid
20 Kiwi's extinct cousin
22 — Island
23 Inning trio
24 Rocker Vicious
25 Weeding tool
26 Small town description
- 27 Play area
29 Have bills
30 Barbie's companion
35 Parishioner's seat
37 Takes as one's own
39 Island greeting
40 Matterhorn, for one
41 Comic strip possum
42 Incursion
43 Money supply
44 Laugh-a-minute
45 "— Karenina"
46 Like custard or quiche

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer



A look at the weather



Michele McDougall Weather Specialist

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

No matter how difficult a situation may be, you are smart enough to find a solution and apply it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

Some of the things a loved one says may annoy you today but there is no point getting annoyed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

Wherever you've been held back in recent weeks is where you'll make progress over the next few days.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you make an effort to look beyond everyday issues, you will discover something that has the potential to transform your life.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

The best way to deal with changing circumstances is to adapt yourself. Try moving with the times.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Someone will come to your aid today. Don't turn down his or her offer of assistance just because you don't want to look weak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

The planets indicate it will be to your benefit to try to see yourself as others see you today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Fate is about to give you an opportunity to prove yourself and if you are smart, you will take advantage.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

21 Don't let people who don't know what they are talking about rub you up the wrong way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You like to check and double check before making a move. Be true to your nature today.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

With Neptune, planet of illusion, about to move into the main financial area of your chart, it's not the time to be taking risks with money.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Don't take too much for granted today. Stay alert if you want to stay on your feet. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



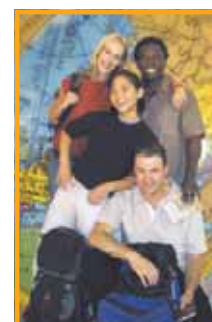
You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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